REMARKS

Claims 1, 19, and 20 have been amended. Claims 5 and 7 have been cancelled. New claim 21 has been added. Claims 1-4, 6, and 8-21 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1, 2, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,055,570 (Nielsen) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,037,934 (Himmel) in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,601,173 (Mohler).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 19, and 20 are patentable over the references, as none of the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest:

> deleting occurs based on access failure of a website wherein, if the
> number of times the access failure has occurred with respect
> to one of the addresses contained in said address list becomes equal to
> a predetermined threshold value, said updating includes deleting the
> one of the addresses from said address list, and wherein said updating
> includes maintaining a line connected for reference to the Web sites, and if no
> input is supplied over a predetermined time period with respect to
> reference to any of the Web sites, said updating includes trying to
> access each of the addresses contained in said address list, and
> deleting an address from said address list if the number of times
> failure has occurred continuously becomes equal to a predetermined
> threshold value by failure of said trial

, as recited in independent claim 1, for example.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged that Nielsen does not explicitly teach, "an updating section updating the contents of said address list according to the state of user references monitored by said monitoring section, said updating including adding to the contents of said address list according to the state of user references and deleting based on the access failure of a website," as in the present invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that Nielsen also does not offer a suggestion of such a feature, as Nielsen is merely concerned with notifying users of changes in content of information stored on one or more network servers.

Although Himmel discloses that "an active set" is deleted, the deletion occurs in response to detecting whether the user wants the deletion to occur. Therefore, in contrast to the present invention, Himmel does not disclose deleting based on access failure of a website.

In Mohler, infrequently used bookmarks, that is, bookmarks that are not frequently used, are cataloged as 'expired' and then migrated to a "former favorites" category where they remain

until the user deletes them or the system automatically deletes them after inactivity. *See* Mohler, column 1, lines 63-67 to column 2, line 2.

Thus, in Mohler deletion occurs due to infrequency of use. In contrast, in the present invention, deletion occurs in response to access failure of a website, which is not tantamount to or related to infrequency of use. For example, in Mohler, although a bookmark may be infrequently used, the website associated with the bookmark may still be accessible.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 19, and 20 are patentable over the references, as none of the references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the above-identified features of the claims.

As dependent claim 2 depends from independent claim 1, dependent claim 2 is patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented for independent claim 1.

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 3-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nielsen in view of Himmel in further view of Mohler, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,631,496 (Li).

Li teaches away from the present invention in that in Li, bookmarks are removed based on a date a webpage corresponding to the bookmark was visited. In other words, Li removes bookmarks based on infrequency of visiting a webpage corresponding to the bookmark, which is not tantamount to or related to deletion based on inaccessibility of a website.

Although Li discloses, "automatically delete dead bookmarks" in Figure 19, Li does not provide details as to how such deletion occurs and provides no indication or suggestion that "dead" bookmarks are deleted according to the method of claim 19 of the present invention, for example. In fact, Li teaches away from the present invention in that Li suggests that the bookmarks are deleted based on days, not number of times access failure has occurred as in the present invention. *See* Li, Figure 19 (specifying "consider the access pattern during the last 30 days").

In light of the foregoing, claims 3-18, via independent claim 1, are patentable over the references, as none of the references, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the above-identified features of the claims.

On page 8 of the Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nielsen in view of Himmel in further view of Li.

As argued above, in Himmel, deletion occurs in response to detecting whether the user wants the deletion to occur. Li suggests that bookmarks are deleted based on days.

Therefore, none of the above-identified references, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests deletion of contents of an address list in the manner identified in the above-identified claims of the present invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 21 is patentable over the references, as none of the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest, "deleting at least one website address from a list when a website associated with the website address becomes inaccessible, wherein, if the number of times the inaccessibility has occurred with respect to one of the addresses contained in said address list becomes equal to a predetermined threshold value, said updating section deletes the one of the addresses from said address list. "

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.
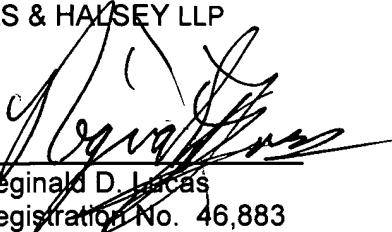
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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